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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 001438

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEC, EI

SUBJECT: US DIALOGUE WITH EC NINE

REF: DUBLIN 1836

1. IN RESPONSE REFTTEL, DEPARTMENT BELIEVES IT WOULD BE
USEFUL SET FORTH OUR VIEWS ON US-IRISH DIALOGUE DURING
UPCOMING IRISH PRESIDENCY AND ALSO IN BROADER SENSE ON WHAT
WE SEEK TO ACCOMPLISH THROUGH CONSULTATIONS WITH THE NINE AS
AN ENTITY AND HOW US-EC/NINE DIALOGUE RELATES TO OUR CON-
SULTATIONS IN NATO. ADDRESSEES MAY DRAW ON THIS MESSAGE FOR
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BACKGROUND, AS APPROPRIATE, AND DEPARTMENT WOULD WELCOME ANY

COMMENTS POSTS MIGHT WISH TO MAKE.

2. WE SHOULD BE CLEAR, FIRST OF ALL, THAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE IRISH, AS PRESIDENT OF THE EC-9, WHICH CONCERN PRIMARILY THE POLITICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES OF THE NINE. OUR DIALOGUE ON EUROPEAN COMMUNITY MATTERS, WHICH IS GENERALLY SATISFACTORY, IS CARRIED ON WITH THE COMMISSION OF THE EC IN BRUSSELS WHERE THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR RECOMMENDING EC ACTION LIES, AND BILATERALLY WITH THE MEMBER STATES OF THE NINE INCLUDING, OF COURSE, THE MEMBER STATE HOLDING THE PRESIDENCY OF THE EC COUNCIL. THIS DIALOGUE HAS BEEN DEVELOPING FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS AND NOW INCLUDES INFORMAL AND FORMAL SEMI-ANNUAL CONSULTATIONS WITH SENIOR EC COMMISSION OFFICIALS.

3. TO DEAL FIRST WITH THE IRISH CONCERN THAT WE WILL BYPASS THEM AND SHIFT DISCUSSIONS TO THE NATO FORUM, WE BELIEVE THE IRISH NEED NOT BE CONCERNED THAT THEIR NON-MEMBERSHIP IN NATO WILL DIMINISH US-EC CONSULTATIONS DURING PERIOD OF IRISH PRESIDENCY OF NINE. IN NATO, U.S. CONSULTS ON A BROAD RANGE OF SECURITY QUESTIONS, POLITICAL/MILITARY ISSUES, AND, TO THE EXTENT PERTINENT, ECONOMIC MATTERS. WE ATTACH IMPORTANCE TO THE FACT THAT THESE CONSULTATIONS INVOLVE NOT ONLY EIGHT OF THE NINE EC PARTNERS, BUT GREECE, TURKEY, PORTUGAL, NORWAY, ICELAND AND CANADA, AS WELL. IN CERTAIN INSTANCES (FOR EXAMPLE, CSCE, THE EC GOVERNMENTS MAKE AN INITIAL PRESENTATION THROUGH ONE OF THEIR NUMBER. MOST EC GOVERNMENTS ARE ALSO ASSOCIATED WITH THE EUROGROUP WHICH FUNCTIONS THROUGH NATO TO COORDINATE EFFORTS AT IMPROVING DEFENSE. IRELAND CANNOT FUNCTION IN THE NATO FORMAT, BUT TO THE EXTENT THAT IT SERVES A USEFUL PURPOSE FOR EC GOVERNMENTS TO HAVE A SPOKESMAN WITHIN NATO, THEY SERVE IN THAT ROLE. IT WILL BE UP TO IRELAND'S EIGHT PARTNERS BELONGING TO NATO TO KEEP DUBLIN ABREAST OF DEVELOPMENTS AFFECTING INTERESTS IRELAND SHARES WITH THE NATO ALLIES.

4. REGARDING THE PRIMARY SUBJECT OF THIS MESSAGE -- OUR POLITICAL DIALOGUE WITH THE NINE -- THERE IS STILL CONFIDENTIAL

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CONSIDERABLE OPPORTUNITY FOR IMPROVEMENT, WHEN MEASURED AGAINST OUR OBJECTIVES. WE SEEK, FIRST OF ALL, KNOWLEDGE OF PENDING EC NINE DECISIONS TO INSURE THAT THE NINE HAVE TIME TO CONSIDER U.S. VIEWS AS PART OF THEIR DELIBERATIONS. SECONDLY, WE SEEK A MEANS OF REGISTERING OUR VIEWS WITH THE NINE THAT WILL SANCTION OPEN AND INFORMED DISCUSSIONS IN EC NINE MEETINGS OF U.S. VIEWPOINTS. FINALLY, WE WANT TO USE THE DIALOGUE TO KEEP THE NINE INFORMED AS AN ENTITY

REGARDING U.S. DELIBERATIONS OR ACTIONS IN AREAS WHERE THE NINE MAY BE CONTEMPLATING COMMON ACTION.

5. THESE OBJECTIVES SHAPE OUR JUDGMENT OF THE ADEQUACY OF THE MORE NARROW U.S.-EC/PRESIDENCY DIALOGUE. THE FIRST OBJECTIVE - ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE - IS PROBABLY THE MOST IMPORTANT FROM OUR STANDPOINT. WE CANNOT OPERATE EFFECTIVELY WITH AN ENTITY IF IT DOES NOT TELL US WHAT IT IS DOING UNTIL AFTER IT HAS TAKEN RIGID POSITIONS -- THIS DOES NOT CONSTITUTE MEANINGFUL CONSULTATIONS.

6. REGARDING OUR SECOND OBJECTIVE - A LEGITIMATE AIRING OF U.S. VIEWS DURING EC NINE DELIBERATIONS - WE WERE ENCOURAGED BY THE "GYMNICH" DECISION TO PERMIT ANY MEMBER OF THE NINE TO REQUEST AT ANY STAGE DURING THEIR DELIBERATIONS A VOTE ON CONSULTING WITH THIRD COUNTRIES. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE THIS HAS NEVER HAPPENED, BUT IT HAS MADE OPEN DISCUSSION OF U.S. VIEWS MORE ACCEPTABLE.

7. YOU MAY TELL THE IRISH THAT CONSTRUCTIVE CONSULTATION DEMANDS THAT THE US-EC/NINE DIALOGUE BE A TWO-WAY STREET. MOREOVER, TO THE EXTENT THAT THE NINE ACT AS AN ENTITY, WE ALL CAN PROFIT FROM AN EARLY DISCLOSURE TO THEM OF U.S. VIEWS. THIS HAS BEEN A PRINCIPAL FACTOR IN OUR DECISION TO ACCEPT AT FACE VALUE THE FRENCH OFFER TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION THROUGH EMBASSY PARIS FOR TRANSMITTAL TO THE REST OF THE NINE.

8. AS THE IRISH PICK UP THE EC PRESIDENCY, WHERE DO WE STAND? FOR OUR PART WE BELIEVE THAT THE IMPORTANCE OF WORKING TOGETHER ON CRUCIAL PROBLEMS - ENERGY, FOOD, MONETARY POLICIES, RECESSION AND INFLATION, ETC - WILL FOSTER CLOSER CONSULTATION. WE SEEK SOLUTIONS, NOT CONFIDENTIAL

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HEGEMONY. FEEDING INFORMATION TO THE IRISH THROUGH EMBASSY DUBLIN AS WE DID TO THE FRENCH MAY BE USEFUL. WE CAN ALSO FROM TIME TO TIME CALL IN THE IRISH HERE IN WASHINGTON. OCCASIONALLY, WE MAY WISH TO CALL IN ALL NINE AMBASSADORS. ABOVE ALL, WE SHOULD BE SEEKING FULL AND PROMPT INFORMATION IN DUBLIN AND THE OTHER CAPITALS ABOUT WHAT IS OCCURRING IN THE EC POLITICAL COOPERATION SPHERE.

9. WE WILL BE LOOKING TO EMBASSY DUBLIN FOR CONTINUING REPORTING DURING THE NEXT SIX MONTHS ON DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AREA OF EC NINE POLITICAL COOPERATION. IN THE PAST, THESE DISCUSSIONS HAVE TOUCHED ON SUCH QUESTIONS AS GREECE'S ASSOCIATION WITH THE EC, POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN GREECE AND PORTUGAL, U.S. ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL,

CYPRUS, ASPECTS OF CSCE AND THE EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE. WE WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING THE CALENDAR AND AGENDA OF SCHEDULED MEETINGS AS FAR IN ADVANCE AS POSSIBLE. WE WOULD ALSO HOPE FOR INITIAL REPORTS ON POLITICAL CO-OPERATION MEETINGS IN DUBLIN BY THE NEXT DAY, WHEN POSSIBLE, AND EMB. DUBLIN SHOULD MAKE THIS POINT DIPLOMATICALLY TO THE IRISH. WE WOULD ENCOURAGE OTHER POSTS TO ADD THEIR COMMENTS AS WELL, EVEN THOUGH THEY MAY BE SOMEWHAT DELAYED IN WAITING FOR THE RETURN OF HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. THE RECENT EC SUMMIT DECISION TO BEGIN SOME MERGING OF COMMUNITY AND POLITICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES MAY MEAN THAT IMPORTANT POLITICAL COOPERATION DISCUSSIONS WILL BE TAKING PLACE IN BRUSSELS OR ELSEWHERE, PLACING AN ADDED REPORTING RESPONSIBILITY ON OUR MISSION TO THE EC AND REQUIRING CLOSE COORDINATION AMONG POSTS.

10. FOR DUBLIN: WE WILL BE DISCUSSING ISSUE OF US-EC

CONSULTATIONS WITH IRISH DURING FONMIN FITZGERALD'S VISIT HERE COMMENCING JANUARY 8. SUGGEST YOU WAIT UNTIL RECEIVING OUR REPORT OF THESE TALKS BEFORE DISCUSSING SUBJECT FURTHER WITH IRISH. KISSINGER

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